



Keith Chapman  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR BETH DELBUONO**

## **NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

*This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting.*

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
IN NEWINGTON, CT

2022 JAN 18 AM 9:10

*James O. Krupinski*  
Town Clerk

Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Braverman  
Deputy Mayor Budrejko  
Councilor Camillo  
Councilor Donahue  
Councilor Manke  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Page  
Councilor Radda  
Mayor DelBuono

Also present:

Keith Chapman, Town Manager  
Stephen Clark, Police Chief  
Janet Murphy, Director of Finance  
Joe Salamone, Director of Facilities Maintenance  
Theresa Avey, Registrar of Voters (Republican)  
Marie Fox, Registrar of Voters (Democrat)  
James Krupinski, Town Clerk  
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilor Page to remove Item 9C; seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.  
Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Councilor Braverman; seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

### **IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS**

A. Retirement – Dianne Stone, Senior & Disabled Center Director

Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

#### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS, Dianne Stone has been the Director of the Newington Senior & Disabled Center for 23 years; and**

**WHEREAS, Dianne is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Senior & Disabled Center including programming, education, nutrition, social work, events, health and transportation services, overseeing a paid staff of eight and a volunteer staff of 75-100, working with the Commission on Aging and Disability, the Town Council, Town Administration and a variety of community partners; and**

**WHEREAS, under Dianne's leadership, over 1,150 older adults and adults with disabilities enjoy a variety of programs and services in a welcoming, safe and vibrant environment; and**

**WHEREAS, Dianne is an unwavering advocate who embodies the Senior & Disabled Center's mission to improve the well-being of older adults and adults with disabilities in the Town of Newington; and**

**WHEREAS, under Dianne's leadership, the Senior & Disabled Center was the first in the State to earn the status of National Accreditation by the National Council on Aging in 2004; and has served as a peer reviewer in numerous senior center accreditation processes throughout the country; and**

**WHEREAS, under Dianne's leadership, the Senior & Disabled Center has been a leader in evidence-based programs, including being involved in the development of the Aging Mastery Program, which is now offered in over 500 senior centers nationwide; and**

**WHEREAS, Dianne's innovation extends beyond the walls of the Senior & Disabled Center as she has been an active in regional and statewide collaboratives including the Statewide Senior Center Taskforce, LGBT Movable Senior Center; the Connecticut Virtual Senior Center workgroup; Jefferson House Board of Directors; Chair of the Senior Subcommittee of the CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, and is the current President of the CT Association of Senior Center Professionals, among many others; and**

**WHEREAS, during the pandemic, Dianne has emerged as a leader among senior center staff in Connecticut by holding regular state-wide virtual meetings to share information and ideas and plan pandemic response for older adults; while continually adapting to the ever-changing challenges presented by pandemic operations at the Senior and Disabled Center; introducing new ways to reach members, decimate timely and accurate information and prevent social isolation in the community; and**

**WHEREAS, Dianne has received many awards through her illustrious career, most recently as the recipient of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities' Richard C. Lee Innovators Award in November 2021; and**

**WHEREAS, Dianne is retiring from her position of Director of the Newington Senior and Disabled Center on January 1, 2022 and her knowledge, professionalism, energy and sense of humor will be missed by her staff, colleagues and Senior & Disabled Center members;**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Dianne Stone for her service and dedication to the Town and wishes her the best in her new endeavors.**

**Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 11th day of January, 2022.**

**Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 9-0.**

- Councilor Manke stated he will miss Dianne's advocacy for our seniors and appreciate her work on their behalf.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated Dianne has done so much for our senior center, known state wide. Left a solid foundation to build upon. Newington's loss is every seniors gain with your new position. Thank you for everything you did.
- Councilor Nagel stated he can personally attest to all the wonder things you have done at the senior center. You are an unwavering advocate and will continue that in your new role. Best wishes to you.
- Councilor Page thanked Dianne very much for all you've done for our seniors in Newington. Wish you the best.

- Mayor DelBuono congratulated Dianne on her years of service to Newington and wish her the very best in the future. Newington's been very fortunate to have had you. Wish you the very best.
- Dianne Stone thanked the council. Can remember coming to Newington in 1998 and wondering what here adventure would be. The center improves the lives of senior adults in Newington and that is done with support of this council and council's before it, town managers, past and present, and the Commission on Aging & Disabled. I've had fantastic colleagues in Newington. Leave it in excellent hands of Jaime Trevethan. COVID has changed things; it will be different going forward. Have been able to take what I've learned in Newington to my new with the National Council on Aging.

B. Retirement – William Jordan, Sergeant

Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

# **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS, William Jordan was hired as a Police Officer for the Town of Newington on December 31, 2001, he graduated from the academy on May 17, 2002; and**

**WHEREAS, William Jordan was assigned to Bicycle Patrol in May 2005, Community Services/Traffic Officer in November 2005 and appointed as School Resource Officer in February 2002 to May 2009; and**

**WHEREAS, William Jordan was appointed to Youth Adult Council in March 2006 to November 2009; and**

**WHEREAS, William Jordan was appointed to Emergency Response team in March 2006 to July 2012; and**

**WHEREAS, William Jordan was assigned to Patrol Division in May 2009 and appointed to Field Training Officer July 2009; and**

**WHEREAS, William Jordan transferred to the Detective Division in November 2010 and was promoted to Sergeant in October 2012; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant William Jordan received an Outstanding Performance Award in the Patrol Division in July 2003 and May 2004; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Jordan received an Excellent Police Duty Award in April 2006 and a Meritorious Service Award in August 2006; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Jordan received a letter of commendation in April 2007 and received an Excellence in Policing Award in October 2007; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Jordan received Arrest/Investigation of the Month Award in May 2009 and October 2009; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Jordan received numerous recognition memorandums and newspaper articles. In 2009, he received a Public Safety Award from Newington Chamber of Commerce; and**

**WHEREAS, for fourteen (14) consecutive years, Sergeant Jordan organized or assisted the Annual Toy and Food Drive for Newington families; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Jordan received numerous letters and thank you notes of appreciation from residents, Town businesses, Newington Chamber of Commerce, Newington Human Services, Newington High School, Daisy Troop, Newington Board of Education and MADD; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Jordan received commendation letters from surrounding police departments including East Hartford, Wethersfield, South Windsor and Berlin; and**

**WHEREAS, after 20 years of service, Sergeant Jordan retired from the Newington Police Department on December 31, 2021.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Sergeant William Jordan for his professional service and dedication to the Town and wishes him the best in his retirement.**

**Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 11th day of January, 2022.**

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that community is thankful you decided to go into this profession. Hope you have a long, fulfilling and wonderful retirement.
- Councilor Manke congratulated Will on his retirement and appreciate his dedication to our town and the youth in our town.
- Councilor Page stated he's heard what a fantastic person you are and all you've done for the youth in our town. Thank you.
- Mayor DelBuono stated the wanted to send here best wishes to Will. Your demeanor and personality always shine through and you connected with our community on another level. Wish you the very best.
- Chief Clark stated he sat on Will's interview panel 20 years ago. He has an enthusiasm for life and the job. Wish him all the best.
- Will Jordan thanked everyone for doing this. Thank you to Chief Clark, he saw something in me and gave me a chance. It's been an honor and privilege to work for the Town of Newington. Thank you.

C. Retirement – Jason Saccente, Sergeant

Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

#### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS, Jason Saccente was hired as a Police Officer for the Town of Newington on November 1, 1999; and**

**WHEREAS, Jason Saccente was appointed to Emergency Response Team in June 2001 and Field Training Officer in December 2004; and**

**WHEREAS, In 2006, Jason Saccente was appointed to Assistant Team Leader/ERT and Certified Less Lethal & Chemical Munitions Instructor; and**

**WHEREAS, On October 8, 2006, Jason transferred to the Detective Division, he was promoted to Sergeant on December 31st; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Jason Saccente was appointed to Evening Executive Officer/Support Services in November 2008; and**

**WHEREAS, During 2012, Sergeant Saccente was appointed to Training Officer in Support Services and Team Leader/ERT; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Saccente was appointed to Administrative Sergeant, assigned to Patrol and Administration in 2017; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Saccente received Arrest/Investigation of Month Award in August 2001, January 2002, May 2002, January 2003, March 2003 and December 2011; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Saccente received a letter of recognition in September 2001 and two written commendations in December 2004 and May 2005; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Saccente received a Distinguished Service Award in February 2006; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Saccente received various letters and thank you notes of appreciation from residents, Newington Public School and the Newington Fire Department; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Saccente received commendation letters from surrounding police departments including New London Police, New Britain Police, Manchester Police, South Windsor, Glastonbury Police, Berlin Police, Farmington Police and Capitol Region Emergency Services Team; and**

**WHEREAS, After 24+ years of service, Sergeant Jason Saccente retired from the Newington Police Department on December 31, 2021; and**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Sergeant Jason Saccente for his professional service and dedication to the Town and wishes him the best in his retirement.**

**Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 11th day of January, 2022.**

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Manke congratulated and thanked Sargent Saccente for all his hard work. Best wishes in retirement.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that life would not be the same in Newington if we didn't have officers like Officer Saccente. Wish him a happy retirement.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to extend her sincere appreciation to Sergeant Saccente for his years to the town and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

D. Retirement – Kenneth O'Brien, Sergeant

Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS, Kenneth O'Brien was hired as a Police Officer for the Town of Newington on November 3, 1997; and**

**WHEREAS, Kenneth O'Brien was appointed to Bicycle Patrol in May 2003 and assigned to the Detective Division in September 2004; and**

**WHEREAS, Kenneth O'Brien was appointed to Crisis Negotiator in June 2006 and appointed to Patrol in October 2006; and**

**WHEREAS, Kenneth O'Brien was appointed to Field Training Officer in November 2006; and**

**WHEREAS, Kenneth O'Brien was promoted to Master Police Officer in October 2008; and**

**WHEREAS, Kenneth O'Brien was appointed to Community Service Officer in May 2009 and promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2010; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant Kenneth O'Brien was appointed to Evening Executive Officer in January 2013; and**

**WHEREAS, In 2016, Sergeant O'Brien was assigned to Patrol Division and Support Services; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant O'Brien received two letters of recommendation in 1999 and a written commendation in 2000; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant O'Brien received a Meritorious Service Award in June 2002 and Outstanding Performance Award in May 2004; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant O'Brien received a written commendation in June 2008 and an Arrest/Investigation of the Month Award July 2012; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant O'Brien received various letters and thank you notes of appreciation from residents, Town businesses and Newington Chamber of Commerce; and**

**WHEREAS, Sergeant O'Brien received commendation letters from surrounding police departments including New London Police, New Britain Police, Wethersfield Police, East Hartford Police, State's Attorney's Office and New Jersey Critical Incident Stress Management Team; and**

**WHEREAS, After 24+ years of service, Sergeant O'Brien retired from the Newington Police Department on January 7, 2022; and**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Sergeant Kenneth O'Brien for his professional service and dedication to the Town and wishes him the best in his retirement.**

**Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 11th day of January, 2022.**

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Camillo thanked Ken and wish him all the best. Wish Will the best as well.
- Councilor Manke congratulated Sergeant O'Brien and wished him the best in his retirement. With these three Sergeant's retiring Newington is losing a lot of knowledge, service and dedication. Hope we can replace these three.
- Councilor Donahue stated he wanted to congratulate all three officers. Thank you for the additional challenges you've faced these past few years. Congratulations to all on your retirement.
- Councilor Page congratulated Sergeant O'Brien and wished him and his family the very best in the future.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated you chose a risky and noble profession and it is still a noble profession. Hope all three Officers are proud of what they have done. Thank you. May you have a very happy retirement.
- Sargent Jordan stated he wanted to congratulate Sergeant O'Brien he did a fantastic job. Also, thank you to the Councilors for your support over the years. Newington, under Chief Clark, and those before him, always provided us with the equipment we needed to get our jobs done safely. Want to express our gratitude for that.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to add here sincere thanks to Sergeant O'Brien in his retirement.
- Sargent O'Brien thanked everyone for their kind words. Honor and privilege to serve Newington; grew up in Newington, graduated from Newington High. Thank town council for support over the years. Will miss the people I worked with. Starting new job with the State of Connecticut.

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)  
(4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

**A. Public Comments**

- Mark Frantz, 288 Williamstown Court, opposition to voting polls in Newington to three voting polls; will cause chaos and disarray. Would like to see funding of FastTrack in Newington. Thanks to the officers of Newington PD. Also, thank you to Dianne Stone, you helped my parents. Thank you to Officers Jordan, Saccante and O'Brien, wish you long, happy lives.
- Terry Borjeson, [no address given] doesn't think reducing voting stations to three stations a good idea. There are a lot of people who don't have car and need regional voting to vote. Would like to see funding for Amtrak station, not FastTrack. Believe the commuter line

should go to Worcester and Boston. Believe station should be at Cedar Street near CCSU. Thank you.

- State Representative Gary Turco, congratulated Dianne Stone on her retirement, amazing at what she does; one of the best senior centers in the state. Also congratulations and best wishes to the three officers in their retirement. Eager to hear presentation, but reducing current districts from 8 to 3 would be bad for town and voters of Newington; have been the same for over 50 years. Change would increase numbers of people to 7,100 per voting district. Please reject and protect voters.
- Carole Mulready, 20 Sherwood Road, West Hartford. Representing the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford. Reducing voting precincts from 8 to 3 is a concern. Need to be very careful when reducing number of polling sites and access to voting. Respectfully request you examine this proposal carefully. How much money can really be saved by reducing polling sites?
- Anna Waldzinska, 254 Beacon Street speaking to council regarding a strong opposition to reducing the voting districts in Newington. Voting is not a partisan issue; it's something the council should vote on unanimously. Reducing voting locations decreases voter turnout. At a time when trust in our elected officials is crumbling and by doing this, the council would give another reason for people to feel this way. Residents are aghast that this is even being considered. Strongly urge council to reject this proposal.
- Pat Lang, [no address given], stated it was with dismay that she received notice regarding reducing voting districts in Newington from eight to three. State already has one of the most restrictive voting in country, especially regarding absentee ballots. Cannot think of any reason other than making it more difficult to vote.
- Ellen Schiller, 84 Settlers Knoll. Would like to speak regarding redistricting plan for town; current set up make voting convenient for all to vote via foot or auto; all have sufficient parking; changing to 3 districts will hinder all residents in Newington of all political affiliations. Reason may be political, racial or financial, but whatever the reason, it's important for the council to do something about it. What is more important, saving a few dollars or saving the voting rights of Newington voters? Put is up for referendum and let the voters decide.
- Susan Mazzocchi, 149 Harris Drive called to say thank you to Dianne Stone. I'm going to miss her so much. When I joined the center I joined the silver sneakers to get exercise and it was fun. Also took classes at CCSU. There are so many wonderful functions at the senior center; appreciate all that Dianne contributed to our senior and disabled center. What kept me going during COVID, because I was lonely and depressed, were the weekly phone calls from Dianne. Thank you Dianne, you will be missed.
- Senator Matthew Lesser wants to congratulate Dianne Stone, incredible reputation statewide; grateful to work with her. Thank you to Officer's Jordan, Saccente and O'Brien for their years of service. Have serious concerns about changing voting districts; proceed cautiously and consider impact.
- Cara Santoro, 93 Francis Avenue. Want to state for the record I'm a registered Republican and I voted for the Mayor. Want to thank Dianne and the officers for their service to town, God bless you all on your retirements. Agree with others about voting polls, it suppresses voters. Train Station not on Willard Avenue but on Francis Avenue at old Cashway property and that would destroy the neighborhood. Traffic is bad, no sidewalks, and noise all the time. No one stops at stop signs. Getting on and off Willard is a nightmare. Best place for station would be on Cedar Street. Junk cars are stored out in front at the old Cashway property. Hope you are on the sides of the people and not developers.
- Nathaniel Page, 46 Olive Street. Have heard words of support for Dianne, and the officers in town. But the redistrict voting areas are opposite of those words of support. Only argument is



to save money and must prove beyond reasonable doubt does not reduce the ability to vote; fundamental right to vote. Research needs to be done regarding this.

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive would like to have rules of procedure include members of public speak after each proclamation and not during general public participation. Commend Dianne Stone, I too was receiving phone calls during the pandemic. Jaime has big shoes to fill. General government should take tips from Dianne on how to keep in touch with people in town. Find the website very hard to navigate. As far as redistricting, will reserve opinion on that until I hear presentation. Is there some sort of statutory requirement forcing this change? Does it have to be three districts? Any wiggle room for compromise? Not much of a difference driving wise for me to vote going from Kellogg to town hall, but parking wise, I have trouble finding parking during normal working days. Hope that when public hearing is held, there is an overview and not have people speaking without knowledge.

#### B. Email Correspondence

- Attached hereto.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the email address to send correspondence is [TownCouncil@Newingtonct.gov](mailto:TownCouncil@Newingtonct.gov)

### VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councilor Page stated that he wants to have an open mind and listen to the proposal, but completely against the proposal to change voting polling to three polling places. Nine states have restricted voting to not apparent or good reason. Concern proposal is to suppress voting rights. Funding Democracy is a need, not a want. Against proposal.
- Councilor Radda thanked those who spoke during public participation and those who have emailed me and other councilors. Very interested to hear proposal regarding voting districts. However, I am strongly opposed to the decrease to three polling sites. See this as impacting our more vulnerable folks in town; particularly seniors, disabled and those with restricted access. Does give the appearance of voter suppression, which I am opposed to. No polling site in the northern end of town.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she wanted to remind the councilors that this is remarks on public participation and not prejudging or presupposing an issue that hasn't been presented yet; just caution you on that. May want to hear presentation before we comment too deeply on an issue.
- Councilor Donahue stated this was not initiated by the Republican party. No one is trying to suppress votes. This was based on study, not suppressing voting. I'm going to look at presentation, keep an open mind. Newington got cut in half by state redistricting. This is a bipartisan thing submitted by the registrar of voters.
- Councilor Braverman asked about cost of persons at polling places.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that will be addressed during the presentation.
- Councilor Manke suggest we get to the rest of the agenda and to the presentation.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to address some comments. This was not brought up by any party, this was brought forward by the Registrar of Voters office, both Democrat and Republican. No one on this council asked for this and it was not requested by anyone here. Concerned by some comments: Councilor Page stated he wanted to keep an open mind, but are completely opposed. Very opposite points. I just think we are off track now from comments on public participation.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she want to get the presentation. Public should notice that the memorandum is from Marie Fox, Democratic Registrar of Voters and Teresa Avey, Republican Registrar of Voters who are presenting it to use. We are seeing it tonight for the first time. It is dangerous to put assumptions behind this. Comments were very premature and immature.



## VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

### A. Health Update – COVID-19

- Town Manager Chapman stated that distribution of COVID testing kits will be Saturday (January 15<sup>th</sup>) from 6 am to 9 am. We have 1,400 kits and one per care. Distribution will be at the spectator parking on Alumni Road, only access will be from Willard Avenue, Cedar Street closed. Deciding whether masks will be distributed as well. Obey time table; wear masks and stay in vehicle. Most towns in the state are in the red and continues to be a challenge for municipalities.
- Councilor Page asked Mr. Chapman for one page sheet with COVID policies for each of the town departments.

### B. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee Report

- Eileen Francolino stated plans are stalled because of COVID; decided to hold back on event at Indian Hill. Working on an outdoor event for early spring. It's been a tough thing for all of us. Hoping to get some programs between now and July.

### C. 2022 Annual Regular Meeting Calendar

Motion by Councilor Manke

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council, in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, hereby approves the 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule, as attached to this Resolution.**

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that there were dates in question – September 27, October 11 and November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilor Manke suggested moving September 27<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>, skip October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting; and cancel November 8 meeting on Election Day. Can always call a special meeting.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that October 4<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of Yom Kippur.
- Mayor DelBuono suggested moving September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilor Manke ***moved to move September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to September 29<sup>th</sup>, moving October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to October 13<sup>th</sup> and canceling November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.*** Amended motion seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed -

### D. Job Description – Operations/Project Manager (A-7)

- Town Manager Chapman stated that is another step in professionalizing our facility maintenance operations. Joe Salamone hired as facilities manager, has read the Owen's report and has inspected all the facilities in town. He's suggested bringing in an assistant to help him accomplish the work that's need to occur on these buildings. Some facilities are in dire condition due to lack of funding, focus and planning. We need to address all three of those things and need the staff to accomplish these goals. Totally support this and believe it would be beneficial to the town.
- Joe Salamone stated that many of the facilities are in need of work; identified \$57 million. The task ahead is enormous and will take a lot of planning, coordination and manpower to see these projects through to completion. It is a need for the facilities department.

Motion by Councilor Manke

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby approves the amendment to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving a job description for the Operations/Project Manager (A-7) position, as recommended by Keith Chapman, Town Manager, in his capacity as Personnel Director.**

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Page stated that he commends the town manager and all involved in staffing properly so we can take care these needs.
- Mayor DelBuono stated this is a long overdue change. Mr. Chapman is doing a great job in recognizing staffing needs in his role as personnel director.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)**

##### **A. COVID-19 ARPA Fund Uses**

- Janet Murphy spoke about COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Program, a way to use the towns APRA funds. This will help mitigate financial issues due to COVID. Business needs to be in business as of January 1, 2019, less than 50 employees, and in good standing with the state. Self-certifying. Can be used for rent, mortgage, and utilities, etc. Applications will be reviewed by the Town Manager, Town Planner, Assessor and myself; we will keep council apprised of status. Want to make sure the business will continue to be in business. The town attorney has reviewed this. Contacted area towns to find out what they have done. Important that we start reaching out to our businesses.
- Councilor Manke stated that this is a good way to show support of the small businesses in town. Using \$500,000 of APRA Funds. Totally support this.
- Ms. Murphy stated that Rocky Hill extended application period. This is just a first flush.
- Councilor Radda stated she thinks this is wonderful opportunity to show support of our small businesses in town. Amount is \$10,000, is there any possibility of increasing that amount depending upon number of applications we receive.
- Ms. Murphy stated she would like to stick with \$10,000, could open it upon with second amount of funds we get. Would like to see how many applications the town gets. Can extend and increase of need arises.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated this is great and she supports it. Asked if sole proprietorships are eligible.
- Ms. Murphy stated that sole proprietorships are eligible for these funds.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked how the town was planning on reaching out to the businesses.
- Ms. Murphy stated she wants to put it in a couple of newspapers as well as the town website. Borrowing from Rocky Hill did.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko has a question regarding the criteria – it states that business and non-profits must have a clear and specific use for grant funds...and must be used for future expenditures directly related to COVID pandemic. What if they are \$5,000 in debt or behind in their rent? Is that not included only future use?
- Ms. Murphy stated that are looking for futures to keep them in business.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that paying rent will keep them in business.
- Mr. Murphy stated that is something that they will look at. Rent payment is a huge thing.
- Councilor Nagel stated he's not sure people know how many small businesses there are in Newington and they have move challenges that larger businesses in terms of dealing with COVID and keeping their business alive. Happy to see this going forth help sustain the small business that are part of Newington.
- Councilor Donahue asked what child labor means.
- Ms. Murphy stated these are requirements that they need to meet with the state. You need to file paperwork with state regarding labor laws.

- Mayor DelBuono asked if religious organizations would qualify.
- Ms. Murphy stated yes, as long as they have 501(c)(3) status and a non-profit organization.
- Ms. Murphy stated that she would like to process now with the license plate readers, another project under the American Rescue Plan Funds.
- Chief Clark stated license plate reader camera system is invaluable. Looking at eight stationary cameras and two portable cameras. Alert would be sent when a stolen car, etc. enters town lines at camera locations. We currently don't have any camera systems in town.
- Councilor Manke great idea. This system reads car on all sides? Is eight locations enough? Can we expand if necessary?
- Chief Clark stated he wants to focus on Berlin Turnpike and Cedar Street. But can add other locations if needed.
- Councilor Manke stated with the next round of COVID funding, that adding more cameras can help reduce crime in town. Totally in favor of this.
- Councilor Radda stated that anything to assist our officers in doing their duty, totally in support of this. How do mobile readers work?
- Chief Clark stated they would be mounted at different locations covertly for specific investigations. It's a turnkey system, they actually come in and do all of the work.
- Councilor Page thanked Chief Clark and all those involved. We want to continue to support our police department and this will do that.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she supports this. Will there be a master database that cars will be listed on? Also, who maintains the database?
- Chief Clark stated there will be an annual maintenance cost. If we were to have a serious crime, we can just put in description of the car, no license plate needed.
- Councilor Nagel asked if cameras were going to be running 24 hours a day, 7 seven days a week.
- Chief Clark stated yes.
- Councilor Nagel asked who services the cameras.
- Chief Clark stated that would be the vendor.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that both ideas brought forward tonight for the business and cameras are great and she is grateful that we are finding innovative ways to use the ARPA funds.

#### B. Town Council Budget Meeting Schedule 2022

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this the council needs to schedule two public hearings regarding the proposed budget. They are Tuesday, March 8, for the Town Manager's Proposed Budget and Tuesday, April 5, for the Town Council's Proposed Budget. Mayor DelBuono asked Town Clerk Krupinski if we need to state they are on Zoom now or at the time of the meeting.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that can be determined at the time you post the meeting. The draft schedule indicates both formats or it can be a hybrid format as well.
- Councilor Manke asked about Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Thinks that may be the day of the St. Patrick's parade in Hartford. Also, these don't conflict with April school vacations.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated the schedule was adjusted so that it didn't conflict with the school vacation week.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we are just considering the hearing dates, not the whole schedule.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that is correct. Also, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hartford is on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### C. Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 121, Voting Districts

- Town Manager Chapman stated that they want to present the council with as much information and facts as possible. We could have easily not said anything about this. The state presented to our Registrars an opportunity that is we wanted to make a change, this is a good time to make it. Our Registrars' have spent the past month working on this. It is not political. It is strictly informational for council consideration. If you chose to do nothing, no harm done. We just wanted to present this to you.
- Teresa Avey and Marie Fox. Ms. Avey thanked the council for allowing us to give you this presentation on redistricting. Both Marie and I worked on this along with Marissa and Jennifer, our deputies. The state redistricted our town to having only two state house districts (20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) and one senate district (9<sup>th</sup>). These changes were done at the legislative level by a bipartisan committee. The new 27<sup>th</sup> district would be divided in two and district 1 would vote at the Mortenson Community Center and district 2 would vote at Ruth Chaffee. The new 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly district will become district 3 and will vote at John Wallace Middle School. Some streets are divided into two districts with the center of the road dividing them per state law. For reference, there is a municipality similar in size and population to Newington that has only four voting districts. We are also proposing a referendum or town committee primary be held at one location, the cost approx. \$34,000 which is not currently budgeted. Our department is one big, unfunded, state mandate. Normal November elections cost approx. \$38,000 to run in eight polling locations. We will be notifying people by mail, via our town website and at public town gatherings to promote new voting districts if approved. Thank you for your time.
- Ms. Fox wanted to respond to the people who called in. We are not trying to be racial, not suppressing voters, feel we have covered everything. We looked at people over 65 who cannot get to the polls, they call for rides, called for absentee ballots. Have covered all questions regarding getting to polling places. Only time people come out to vote is every two years – Governor and Presidential. There will be lines, not for long, but things run smoothly. Once in the building things move fast thanks to our polling workers. Plenty of parking for all at all of the locations. We worked on this for over a month. The stated redistricted. We are only trying to help the voters. See this as an excuse not to vote. Voting has gone down over the years. We work for the voters, do not work for any political party. Thank you.
- Councilor Manke asked if it's possible to vote at the same polling location for both the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> districts.
- Ms. Avey stated that the lines for the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> districts have been drawn by the state legislature.
- Ms. Fox stated that they can't change those lines.
- Councilor Manke stated that where does Maple Avenue currently vote?
- Ms. Manke stated that part of Maple Hill would vote at Wallace and the other would vote at the town hall. Right now Maple Hill is split and part of it votes and district one and part of it votes at district 6.
- Councilor Page thanked Ms. Avey and Ms. Fox for being here tonight. Especially because it's quite a firestorm and you're courageous for speaking tonight. I commend you. Is it correct that it costs \$38,000 to run an election?
- Ms. Avey stated yes, it is roughly \$38,000.
- Councilor Page stated that it is less than \$2 per person as we currently vote. Just want to go on record and say that I think for \$2 per head, we're getting a deal to maintain things the way they are and it's foolish that we are having this conversation. No disrespect to you (Marie and Teresa), but this is ridiculous that we are having this conversation. Thank you very much for being here tonight. It's a shame we are wasting our time on this very bad idea.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she understands that a lot of work went into this and this came from the state saying we're redistricting, here's an opportunity to take a look at your community voting districts. From your ladies perspectives, what is the benefit to the town of Newington for reducing the polling districts? Other than financial, are there staffing issues, are there counting issues, are there issues in your office? Is it going to save money number one, but are there other non-financial benefits that will actually help the voting process in Newington?
- Ms. Avey stated there is a staffing issue throughout the whole state. We in this office sent out emails to town employees, but also utilize social media and news flashes. There are over 100 people that work the polls. By reducing districts you reduce the number of moderators, ballot clerks, and other staffing.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked if that was primarily the reason for taking advantage and looking at our polling districts.
- Ms. Avey stated that another reason is that 8 is a lot. The town of West Hartford, ten years ago had 19 voting districts and they went down to 9 and are looking to reduce even more this year because of the redistricting.
- Councilor Nagel asked why you chose these particular polling sites and why it came down to three, and especially the configuration of district three.
- Ms. Avey stated for district three they chose John Wallace because Anna Reynolds will be going into a renovation stage and there is a huge parking issue at Anna Reynolds, getting in and out so we chose John Wallace. We chose the Mortenson Community center because it is close to us and one of the larger areas for a polling location. Ruth Chaffee used to be the largest for the number of voters, and that's the only school within district 2 to house it.
- Councilor Nagel stated that he assumes there is no other location in district 3 that another polling station could be in the north end of town.
- Ms. Avey stated that there is no town owned buildings. Some towns do pay businesses to allow them to use their facilities for voting, but I cannot think of another area in district three, without having to pay rent, another added expense.
- Councilor Nagel thanked Teresa and Marie for their work on this. Important that you pointed out the staffing issues and difficulty getting staffing for the amount of polling stations we currently have. Having worked the polls, it's a lengthy process and you are there for many hours.
- Ms. Fox stated that people don't know the number of hours poll workers actually work. They have to attend a non-paid mandatory meeting mandated prior to the election which takes 2 to 4 hours. They get to the polling locations at 5 a.m. and work all day until after 8 p.m. People have stayed until after 2 a.m. Numbers need to match. It's a long day. People work 14 hours a day or more. We've had people come back year after year. Most of the people that work are over 60 years old.
- Councilor Manke state that the number one driver for this is not the funding, correct?
- Ms. Avey and Ms. Fox both stated no.
- Councilor Manke stated that \$38,000 is like drop in the bucket. Would not be in favor if this is just for a cost measure, but I also hear that you are having trouble getting workers at the polling places. Is that correct?
- Ms. Avey and Ms. Fox both stated that is correct.
- Councilor Manke stated that if you don't get enough staff, what would happen?
- Ms. Avey stated that it would slow down the process.
- Councilor Manke asked if more to the booths would be available at each location.
- Ms. Avey stated that there is a state statute mandating the number of privacy booths needed per number of voters, so the privacy booths would increase in each location because the number of voters have. Also, we do have enough so that we wouldn't have

to worry about purchasing any. At every election we would have the same number of privacy booths.

- Councilor Radda thank Teresa and Marie for putting this together. You mentioned that if there is a standalone referendum that would take place at only one polling place in town. Where would that be?
- Ms. Avey stated that has not been determined yet. That will be determined by the Registrar per state statute. It is not decided yet, because it's still being proposed.
- Ms. Fox stated that only want it at one, because if we get 25% of the total coming for a primary or referendum, that's a lot. Worrying about how many are voting at each district, it's not going to increase. We're lucky if we get 30% in a municipal election. For governor and presidential elections it will increase, but we know what to do and it won't be a problem.
- Councilor Radda states she understands the difficulty in getting volunteers. If the pooling places are reduced to there and staffing is reduced, what does that mean for the voters in terms of congestion and getting through the voting process.
- Ms. Fox stated that they have worked out those numbers. Voting has decreased over the years and if people really want to vote, they will. Don't see any problems.
- Councilor Radda asked how the decision was made to come up with these three polling places and why isn't Elizabeth Green be considered and a polling site for the people in the northern part of town, something that is more convenient and accessible.
- Ms. Avey stated that she currently votes at E. Green and it's a five minute drive [to the town hall]. People wait in line for hours for coffee. We all agreed on these locations and thought they would be best for the town. We are open to suggestions.
- Councilor Page stated that this is a clear call for me and others to offer our assistance to the registrars between now and the next election to solicit more people to work at the polls and participate in our democracy and to vote. If these people are saying it's tougher and tougher to get folks to volunteer or participate, I'll sign up for a committee or whatever and make an effort to solicit more participation. We want to engage our community to vote and participate.
- Ms. Fox stated that the have posted this on their Facebook page and in order to become a moderator, you have to take a five hour course. People aren't willing to do that.
- Councilor Page stated the thinks out vote is worth that.
- Ms. Fox stated it is, but people don't think that way. I've been working on this for 31 years.
- Councilor Manke stated that this is the first time the council has looked at this and we are not in favor of voter suppression. Each of the proposed voting locations have sufficient parking. The parking at E. Green is atrocious. Appreciate that you've taken and looked at this.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that we have a number for people to call if they need a ride, but note all of the cars are suitable or handicapped accessible. Is there a way that Dial-a-Ride or any of the town's buses be made accessible on voting day to eliminate that issue?
- Ms. Avey stated that she could check with the senior center to see if could make arrangements. If we could, we would publicize that. We could even ask the senior center to make calls letting people know that there are rides available. Yes, that is possible.
- Ms. Fox stated that they are being used on Election Day but people don't use them. Dial-a-Ride doesn't stay, they get dropped off and then come back in 20 minutes. That has to change. The go in, vote and come out.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that for one day out of the year that needs to change and have more handicapped accessible. Think that can help solve the issue of getting the elderly and handicapped to polling places.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she absolutely disagrees that this is a waste of time and reject that opinion. The only way to move the town forward and come up with ideas that will advance us is to discuss them at the table. This proposal may be perfect or it may not be perfect, but the only way to vet that is by talking about it together and by hearing from the public on their thoughts as well. I am thankful you spent as much time and as many hours you had and bringing this to us for our consideration. You saw an opportunity by the state redistricting to look at different options and opportunities for our town. In order to move this forward, we would require a public hearing and the proposed date for that would be February 8<sup>th</sup>. I also suggest that if the councilors have suggestions, questions, reach out to Theresa or Marie.
- Ms. Avey stated that they would be happy to get questions and suggestions.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that if we wanted to add a 4<sup>th</sup> location, Anna Reynolds does make sense, but with the renovation, it's not currently available. How would we do that?
- Ms. Avey stated that they could make a note that everyone at this location will be voting at Anna Reynolds starting in such and such a date, but in the meantime, you will be voting at this location using different avenues to alert them. Not sure what needs to be done.
- Mayor DelBouno stated that Newington is 13 square miles, not huge town in terms of distanced to get to the polls. Understand if people don't have a car, but there are many options. As Marie mentioned, absentee ballots has become a popular way to vote and that will always continue to be an option and rides, certainly. Hesitant to add Reynolds, it's gonna be, but it's not. Think it will be more confusing than the initial change. We need to think on that before our next meeting, to think about possibilities.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that if we determine district three doesn't work and you want to add Anna Reynolds as a polling location, we can go through the same ordinance process as we are now; split district three into two districts, Anna Reynolds and Wallace and recreate the districts again. There's nothing that stops us from doing that. The main reason this is currently being put forward is due to our house district changes that is why this started.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that like any other business before us, you cannot discuss this outside of caucus. If you have any questions or suggestions reach out to Theresa or Marie directly via email so they can present the information at our next meeting.

***Motion by Councilor Radda to move agenda Items H.A, IX.A, IX.B and X to allow the council to take action by 10:30. Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 9-0.***

#### **H. Bid Waiver Request for Body-Worn Cameras (Waiver Requested)**

- Chief Clark stated that the police accountability bill requires all police officers to wear body-worn camera regardless of function. We currently have WatchGuard for our car cameras and we are looking to use them for the body worn cameras because they will integrate. When you activate the lights and sirens, it automatically activates the in-car camera and if we have WatchGuard body cameras, they will automatically be activated as well so when an officer responds to a call, we will have video from both the car camera and body worn camera. This will be a 5-year lease with WatchGuard. When the original grant came out, it was for the purchase of body worn cameras and it didn't have a leasing component. We worked with our legislators and OPM in getting a leasing program which was approved. The benefit of the lease to own with the body worn cameras is that WatchGuard will replace, at no cost, if broken or lost during that period. OPM is offering a 30% reimbursement.

Motion by Councilor Donahue

**RESOLVED:**



The Newington Town Council, in accordance with §11 of the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, adopted February 11, 2020, hereby moves to allow action on Agenda Item VIII.H to waive bidding required for the purchase of Body-worn Cameras and necessary software.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Councilor Radda

**RESOLVED:**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has the power under Section 814 of the Newington Charter to waive the process of procuring sealed bids; and

**WHEREAS**, Town personnel have determined that the acquisition of Body-worn Cameras and Management Software is an important matter of public safety for the Town of Newington, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council hereby grants a waiver, for the requirement of sealed bids for the procurement of Body-worn Cameras and Evidence Management Software for the Newington Police Department; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the bid waiver to WatchGuard Video, of Allen, TX, is granted based upon the supplied Quote ID: WEV-0232-03, dated June 17, 2021.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

Public Participation

- None

**IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**

**a. Appointments – Board of Ethics**

- Town Manager Chapman stated that he was made aware that the previous appointments had terminated and the Ethic Commission has not met in quite some time. I was able to contact 2 of the 3 members on the committee and these two individuals indicated their desire to be on the committee.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that these three members are unaffiliated brought forward by the Town Manager and in addition there will be (2) Democrats and (2) Republicans.

Motion by Councilor Manke

**RESOLVED:**

Pursuant to a recommendation by Keith Chapman, Town Manager, the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments of an unaffiliated members of the Board of Ethics:

Board of Ethics

7 Members: 2 Republicans; 2 Democrats; 3 Unaffiliated 2 Alternates

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Robert Gerrol Member	37 Turkey Hill Road	U	1/11/2022 – 11/30/2024	Reappointment – Self DeFacto Term
Kimberly A Ramstad Member	555 Main Street	U	1/11/2022 – 11/30/2024	Reappointment – Self DeFacto Term
Member		U		

Seconded by Councilor Page. Motion passed 9-0.

**b. Resignation – Robert Rioux, Economic Development Commission**

Motion by Councilor Page

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Robert Rioux, as a member of the Economic Development Commission, in accordance with email correspondence dated January 4, 2022, and effective immediately.**

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 9-0.

**X. REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

- c. Approval of January 11, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$4,535.08 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0

**A. Acceptance of Grant Award-Affordable Housing Plan Grant**

- Town Manager Chapman stated that due to change in personnel this was overlooked.

**B. Discussion – Initiate Charter Revision Process**

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this was discussed prior to the election in November.
- Town Clerk Krupinski provided an explanation of the process and the make-up of the commission. People assume when changes are made its political and it shouldn't be. The last time we did this was in 2012. We've been in a charter form of governance since 1966. It would be a five member board. One of the larger duties the council has is to supply the commission a charge – look at everything, one particular thing.
- Councilor Page asked if this is like changing our constitution.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated yes, in a sense.
- Councilor Page stated that in order to make a change, it needs to be a significant change. Did you say that at referendum you would have item, by item, yeah or nay rather than the entire proposal?
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that is correct. You're not looking to change the entire charter but certain sections. One may be current bidding is at \$30,000, but should be increased to \$100,000 – that's a charge we would put to the commission.
- Councilor Manke stated to clarify, it's not as dramatic as changing the constitution.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that technically you are amending the town's constitution.
- Councilor Manke stated that we're not starting from scratch. Just looking to amend syntax, vocabulary, dollars and cents. Thinks it's a good idea. It's healthy for any organization to look at their governing rules on a regular basis. I recommend that we put in the Charter that we review this every number of years.
- Town Clerk Krupinski suggested that you don't put anyone on that doesn't have the time and not already on another committee.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that best practices that I've reviewed regarding municipal charters, it be reviewed every ten years. Very timely. This is something that many municipalities go through every number of years. Once you open the charter, everything is subject to review. It's a good opportunity. As Councilor Manke said, we should put something in there that we review is every ten years.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that as a suggestion Majority and Minority leaders get questions together to work on.

C. Job Description – Deputy Police Chief (A-11)

- Chief Clark stated that this is a temporary position. Thirty percent of our supervisory staff will be lost with the retirement. Even having the position, we will be without supervisors. It's difficult to find qualified applicants. We can absorb this through vacancies we have now. It will help us now and down the road when I retire.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko thinks this is a great idea and creative on your part. Thankful Lt. is staying on in this position. You are in a staffing crisis. Thinking outside the box to react to a situation and need. Fully support it.
- Councilor Manke stated this is a creative approach, appreciate you bringing it forth to us. The force the size of ours should have a permanent deputy chief.
- Councilor Page stated he agrees with previous comments, and thank Chief Clark for all his fantastic work. We fully support this.

D. Update to the Classification Plan

- Town Manager Chapman stated that this is something that is done annually basis. Based upon authorized increases through the collective bargaining agreement. Standard, annual event. Two positions added tonight have been added to the plan.
- Councilor Page asked if the Social Workers were master levels and licensed. And if licensed can they bill for services to generate revenue for the town to cover their salaries and get paid more.

E. MIRA Status Report

- Town Manager Chapman stated that MIRA is shutting down since it has become outdated and antiquated. MIRA has provided cost projections. Looking at alternatives to MIRA and would like to consider some of these and would like to go out to RFP with Wethersfield and Rocky Hill. It's a difficult situation and it's not getting any better. Anticipate increase to next year's budget. Hope to have information by the end of March.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that this is a state issue and she hopes the state legislators will do something about this. What needs to be done to break the contract with MIRA?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that we will have an opportunity to opt out of contract with MIRA and remove ourselves from their program. All member towns will have that opportunity.
- Councilor Nagel stated this has been a bone of contention with members of CROG. It is a major issue, and should be resolved quickly; no good economical alternatives.

XI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- *Tabled to next meeting*

XII. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- Mr. Chapman stated that our grant writers, Sonic Group, have gotten several grants. One is \$10,000 for Newington Junction, as a possible historical area; also getting \$123,000 from State Historical Preservation Office for Kellogg Eddy House roof replacement and \$47,155 for firehouse equipment. Hiring this group has paid off.
- Town Clerk Krupinski showed videos relating to Newington.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the videos were done at no cost to the town.
- Councilor Donahue suggested running these as PSAs on NCTV.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that these are a nice way for people to consider Newington and to market the town.

**XIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Councilor Nagel stated that the grant for Newington Junction is very important; that is the original center of town. Attended a CROG meeting and they appointed a new head of CROG, Matt Hart. Erin Stewart is heading up the Policy Board. Last night I attended a Library Board meeting via Zoom.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that tomorrow night is a TPZ meeting at 7:00 p.m. with two public hearings. First is a text amendment to add marijuana dispensary to PD zone. For those interested in Culver Street project, is to delete the zoning text requiring PD zone has direct access to the Berlin Turnpike or streets that connect directly to the Berlin Turnpike.

**XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)  
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated she was pleased to hear about grants applied for and received. Have been asking for years that someone be assigned to that; really a full time job. Would like to hear more about the Alumni Road realignment grant.
- Ellen Schiller stated that Martin Kellogg could be a possible voting site. I remember that Candidates asked people to help out with elections and do various jobs during Election Day. Also, is it possible to have more sites; instead of 3, maybe 5 or 6.

**XV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

- Mayor DelBuono stated that during the last election the Republican caucus did reach out to the community for volunteers.
- Councilor Manke stated he participated in the holiday food and gift drives. Would like to have Human Services director come to future meeting to talk about all that goes into that. Let the community get an update.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Page. Motion passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon  
Council Clerk